The new buildings in the College of Maynooth comprise 215 rooms for students, together with an extensive library: seven lecture halls, a kitchen, refectory, and other accommodation have been added.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

A MOVING STORY.

THE recent sudden departure of the Marble Arch from St. James's Park, and its miraculous reappearance in Hyde Park, is a phenomenon only equalled by what one sometimes witnesses at a Christmas pantomime, when the entire extinction and apparent extermination of a goblin at one corner of the stage is followed by his reappearance, sound, wind and limb, in another corner. After this occurrence, one seems never sure of any thing: who knows but that to-morrow morning we may get up and find that Whitehall and Whitechapel have changed places? or that the Duke of York's pillar may not have suddenly sunk into its mother earth, to emerge out of the bosom of the reservoir in Tottenham-court-road?

Now that the Commissioners of Woods have begun to play at marbles with our monuments, how are we to find our way about London if our landmarks are removed? We may now expect to become as familiar with the transfer of *stones* in the capital as we have hitherto been with the transfer of capital in the *stocks*.

Perhaps one day we may see in the *Morning Post* an announcement something like the following:—

FASHIONABLE MOVEMENTS.

Buckingham Palace, from Pimlico to Jericho.

National Gallery, from Trafalgar-square to Kensington, for the benefit of the air.

The Monument, from the bottom of Fish-street-hill to the top of Primrose-hill.

The Duke's Statue, from the roof of the lodge in the Green Park to a place of its own in the same locality.

Middle-row, Holborn, from its present seat to a little farther eastward, where it will be usefully employed in filling up the Valley of the Fleet.

The Great Cucumber Frame, from Hyde Park to Battersea Fields, for the promotion of the growth of brocoli sprouts and the encouragement of early peas.—Your's in despair.

WHAT NEXT?

SECURITY FOR INVENTIONS IN THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

IN the present state of the patent laws no model of an invention, unless patented before being forwarded to the Great Exhibition, is safe from piracy. I will give a case:—An inventor too poor to obtain a patent on the offspring of his skill, but nevertheless anxious for public praise,—space having been awarded him—deposits his invention in the Great Exhibition; say, for instance, a battery for the separation of metals. Another man has applied for, and obtained the great seal, for a battery for similar purposes: he has six months to complete his specification. What then? He can, by paying the amount of entrance, see the battery of the poor man in operation, go home, and, including the improvement on his own he may there witness, in his specification, be in a position not only to prevent the exhibitor from obtaining a patent, but to commence an action at law if he even try to sell this offspring of his imagination and toil.

I would suggest, for the security of inventions forwarded to the Exhibition, that a short Act be immediately passed, enacting that all patents at present in progress shall be fully specified before the 1st of May, or be considered null and void; and that all inventions forwarded to the Exhibition be considered secured until the termination of the said Exhibition. Any party pirating any such inventions to be amenable under the Registration Act.

I would suggest to the executive committee whether it would not be advisable to reward poor exhibitors of new and ingenious inventions, by a patent free of all costs.

I would also suggest the following ideas for embodiment in the new patent laws:—

That the first step for an inventor, in procuring a patent, be the completing of his specification.

That the expense incurred in lodging the specification be merely nominal.

That a committee of investigation, composed of scientific men, be appointed by Government to examine the specifications and models of inventions, and to decide on the propriety of a patent.

That such specification, accompanied with a model, be lodged with the committee by the patent agent immediately on the inventor perfecting his invention, and that when the Great Seal has been obtained, no further specification be allowed.

That the expense incurred in procuring the Great Seal (say 100*l*.) secure to the patentee, the fullest protection for England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and the colonies.

That an alphabetized descriptive list of all patents be kept at the office, the same to be seen on payment of a small fee.

That a model of every invention be kept in a museum, appropriated to that purpose, with a number affixed, such number to correspond with the number of the patent. The entrance fee to be merely nominal.

That all inventions shall be considered as new, and therefore worthy of a patent, without infringement upon an old one, after a period of, say twenty years.

That a superior court of examiners, also composed of scientific men, be appointed to decide (at a fixed charge) upon the validity of doubtful patents, the assertions of the parties interested being forwarded in writing, or being defended by the patent agent employed by them in drawing up the specifications.

WILLIAM M. ROBERTSON.

VENETIAN GOTHIC.

IT was rather bold in "J. T. W." to apply the epithet "beautiful" to what, so far from deserving it, seems to me quite unworthy of it,—at least if we may judge by the drawing given of it. I allude, of course, to the *Palazzo dei Pergoli Intagliati*, which, whatever merit it may possess in comparison with other specimens "of the Gothic architecture peculiar to Venice," must appear to the eyes of Englishmen shockingly bad Gothic, and to those of architects a decidedly bad composition. It would, therefore, have been more discreet to have called it a "characteristic" specimen, instead of a "beautiful" one. We might also have been informed whether we are to understand that the whole of the front is coeval with the Ca d'Oro, for the ground-floor windows look precisely like those of an ordinary house, except that they are remarkably small, being scarcely at all higher than the balcony above them.* If we take the balconies as a scale, the columns and all the rest must be diminutive, unless the balconies themselves are so preposterously large and high that they must seem to encumber the front, and produce a certain appearance of clumsiness. A good deal of clumsiness and coarseness there is, too, in other respects,—at any rate seems to be,—together with no little poverty and meanness also in some of the details.

Hardly is the cause of good taste promoted by indiscriminate praise, or by claiming admiration in the lump, even though defects should preponderate over merits. What is so spoken of is apt to mislead quite as much as to instruct. In their "Examples of Architectural Art," Messrs. Waring and Macquoid say of Palazzo Manzoni (an edifice most strangely omitted by Cicognora, in his "Fabbriche di Venezia," although many subjects of far less merit are there to be found)—"this palace is a favourable specimen of its period (about 1500), showing *the good and bad points* very distinctly;"—a candid and praiseworthy remark, that may perhaps prevent some of its worse points being mistaken for beauties, and blindly copied in some Pall-mall club-house.

Apropós to club-house architecture, Mr. Ruskin is so far from being an admirer of what we have done in that way, that in his "Stones of Venice," he condemns it as "feeble coxcombry!" So far, too, is he from being at all propitiated by our Pall-mall plagiarisms and copyings from Sansovino, that he condemns both Sansovino himself, and Palladio also, as notorious offenders; and he likewise goes so far in his antipathies as to talk of "the *pestilent* art of the Renaissance! Pestilent!!!! it is enough to make one's hair stand on end with horror, each particular hair assuming the attitude of "a note of admiration." It will be well for Ruskin, if his "Stones of Venice" be not universally declared by architects to be a most *pestilential* book; *for*, however widely they may differ from each other in their tastes and opinions, "they are likely to agree very cordially upon that point." I should not be surprised should these same Stones of Venice tumble down upon Mr. Ruskin's head, or else should he be stoned to death with them, in return for flinging with them at so many respectable persons and prejudices. ZETA.

* These are near the water.

BOWOOD PARK, WILTS.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that various improvements are in progress at Bowood Park, the seat of Lord Lansdowne. For some years past there has been an intention of forming another approach to the mansion from the new lodge on the road from Chippenham to Devizes, built by Mr. Barry, and known by the name of the "Golden Gates," but the many difficulties with which an alteration to effect an embellishment has had to contend have led to the abandonment of various plans. The approach now in course of operation avoids the rising ground, taking a gradual sweep round its base, and leading more directly in front of the building, which it will now approach by a broad and straight road at right angles with the mansion. A platform, inclosed by a perforated stone balustrading with piers and pedestals, surmounted by the family crest, and ornamental iron gates, form the entrances into the platform in front of the principal entrance portico.

A garden on the south-west side of the mansion is in progress: it incloses a space of 496 feet by 80 feet, in connection with the present flower garden, and will form a lower garden with upper and lower terraces. The central turf walk from the side portico terminates with a pedestal and reclining statue, having a fountain at the base, and on either side semicircular stairs. At the summit is a terrace, with at one termination a pavilion, from which is a fine view of the garden, park, and house.

Mr. George Kennedy is the architect, and Messrs. Strong, of Box, are the contractors.

OUR ROADS AND THOSE WHO MANAGE THEM.

ALLOW an old correspondent and friend of your paper space for a few remarks on subjects which have already engaged the attention of some of your friends, viz.:—THE LONDON STREETS.

Your correspondent, "A District Surveyor" (see *ante*, p. 157), has properly complained of the disgraceful state of the macadamized and paved streets of London. It is not only lamentable to ride over some of them, but really dangerous; for the numerous inequalities of surface and holes endanger axles, springs, and wheels of carriages, as well as the knees of horses, and the limbs and lives of riders. Yet several Acts of Parliament have been made to regulate and provide for the efficient pavement of the metropolis. Every householder is also taxed, and that in many instances very heavily, to pay paving rates; yet thousands of these payers never ride either in a carriage or on a horse, and consequently cannot use or injure the roads they pay for. There must be some radical defect either in the laws or in their administration. The bulky and really important Act, called Michael Angelo Taylor's, was intended and calculated to make "all our ways" sound and lasting; but, alas, its provisions are too much evaded, and its principles rarely carried into effect.

A Bill is now before Parliament to regulate and provide good roads and foot pavements within *the parish of St. Pancras*,

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